



Church of Our Redeemer
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Redeeming Features

Volume 29

Issue 10

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Greetings from Rev. Kate Ekrem

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Dear friends,

Each fall as I look around our congregation and see so many faces, young and old, new and familiar, I think of what a blessing this community is and how God has blessed us with many gifts. There are so many exciting and inspiring things happening at Redeemer this fall, from new initiatives like the Creation Care Team and the Redeemer mission folks working on safer gun laws, to our ongoing ministries like cooking for Bristol Lodge, the wonderful music of our choir, and especially seeing all our children and youth engaged in formation with fantastic leaders and mentors. For these blessings and your dedication to our ministries and generous spirit, I am extremely grateful.

This is also the time of year that our stewardship committee reminds us that all these ministries only happen because of your financial support. Over the next six weeks, we will have an opportunity to deepen our faith and commitment to the ministries of Church of Our Redeemer. Each Sunday, a bulletin insert will include a reflection on the weekly Gospel lesson and the theme "Flourish in Faith." I invite you to join me in reading these reflections, spending some time considering the questions and examining what it truly means to "Flourish in Faith."

This is a time for reflection on all of life as gift from God: relationships, family, vocation, environment and material wealth. By returning to God a portion of this abundance, we become more like the generous God in whose image we have been created. How we earn, save, spend and give makes a significant difference in the life of others. Even more importantly, these activities impact our own spiritual well-being and our ability to flourish in faith. This year, the stewardship committee hopes to receive some kind of financial commitment, no matter how small, from 100% of Redeemer's members. We need everyone's help to do God's work and serve as the



Greetings from Kate (cont'd)

hands and feet of Christ in the world. I invite you to consider the many blessings in your life and how your giving reflects the image of a generous and loving God. Proportional giving is an important spiritual exercise. It means merely giving a percentage of your income instead of a flat amount. It doesn't matter what the percentage is. Sitting down with your paystub, checkbook and a calculator to do the math, if you haven't done that before, really makes you think about your relationship with God in a new way. It's a way of opening our whole life to the blessings of God's abundance.

I hope you will use the resources the stewardship committee is sharing to take the time to pray and listen to God during this pledge season. The Apostle Paul challenged believers to use the spiritual resources available to them - love, the power of the Spirit, and the intellect God gave us. Remember the Holy Spirit is at work quietly among us. Trust God to enable you to "Flourish in Faith." Thank you again for all you give to God's mission and ministry at Redeemer.

Peace and blessings,

Kate



Creation Care Sunday: A Celtic Worship

Bishop Bud Cedarholm has asked, "What would it look like if every congregation in our diocese and others across the globe observed a holy season of creation care that defined our relationship with God as one of thanksgiving and wonder; of repentance for our sins against creation; of reconciliation with God and all of creation?"

At Redeemer, we will observe Creation Care Sunday on Sunday, October 6th with a Celtic Worship service. After the service, Redeemer's Creation Care Team will lead the Adult Forum, offering ideas and inspiration for caring for the environment.

Celtic Christianity has a particular emphasis on the importance of God's creation. A rich spiritual tradition which traces its roots to St. Patrick, c 432, it emphasizes contemplation, prayer, intellectual study, poetry, and God's presence in the beauty of nature.

The Celtic music group, Fellswater, will once again providing music for worship along with the adult choir. We'll sing hymns from Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and Brittany (France), some new and some familiar.

Our worship will follow the normal Sunday Eucharist structure, but with prayers taken from several ancient and modern Celtic sources with a focus on caring for creation.

Come and enjoy this special worship service and be inspired to connect your faith to caring for the world we live in. You can learn more about the Creation Care initiative of the Diocese of Massachusetts, and read weekly meditations by Bishop Cedarholm, here: <http://www.diomass.org/creation-care-season>



Being Peacemakers on Sunday, October 20

On Sunday October 20, two special peacemakers will be part of our Sunday morning and we will have the opportunity to learn more about the diocesan B-PEACE initiative.

B-PEACE is a program inspired by Jorge Fuentes, a member of St. Stephens in Dorchester who was killed by gun violence. B-PEACE stands for:

Bishop's Action Steps Toward Peace:

Programs for youth

Employment for teens and young adults

Academic excellence in public schools

Communities for families

End to gun violence

On Sunday, October 20, Julia McMahon, the director of B-PEACE, will be with us to share news and ideas about B-PEACE at the Adult Forum. Members of our Alewife deanery are particularly interested in partnering with a Boston high school and Julia will share how to get involved.

Several members of Redeemer's mission committee have been active in lobbying for safer gun laws. The sermon will be offered by Redeemer member Beth Murnaghan, who will share why this issue is so close to her heart and tell about her peacemaking activities over these past few months.

Please join us to hear Beth's moving sermon and learn more about this important issue.

Mission News

Great opportunities to serve others and build community!

Cooking for Bristol Lodge

Bristol Lodge, a program of Middlesex Human Service Agency, Inc. and located in Waltham, is the only dinner program for homeless people in the western suburbs inside 128. It serves dinner every day to about 100 men and women. For 25 years Redeemer has been cooking and serving on the 4th Monday of every month.

A team generally cooks on Monday afternoons and there is opportunity to start a Sunday afternoon cooking team. Ideally, it would be great if volunteers could plan to cook 3 – 4 times a year, on a team or at home, without feeling an obligation to do it every month. There is always back up and an experienced person to help and support you. You also can make a salad and/or dessert at home and bring it in to be included with the meal. Recipes can be provided!

Please consider joining this important Redeemer ministry. For additional information, please contact Evelyn Haussein, ehaussein@rcn.com or 781-861-0378.

Habitat for Humanity

Please consider joining others in our community at the fall workday with Merrimack Valley's Habitat for Humanity. This is a great opportunity to work with others in the Redeemer community to positively affect those in nearby communities. The workday will be on **Saturday, October 19**. Please contact Steve Burns, a65corvair@verizon.net, for more information and/or if you're interested in joining the crew!



Music News

Sunday Worship, October 6th, 9:30 am - Celtic Music in a Celtic Creation Care Sunday - Returning guest band Fellswater (www.fellswater.com) on tin whistle, guitar, flute, fiddle, and pipes will play an array of traditional tunes from the Celtic diaspora as musical meditations and hymn accompaniments. Fellswater will also offer a short informal session of music immediately following the postlude in the sanctuary. This special service is not to be missed, and it's a good Sunday to bring a friend to Redeemer.

Saturday, October 12th 7:00 pm. Internationally acclaimed preacher, teacher, songwriter, and musician **John Bell, from the Iona Community in Scotland**, will be leading an interactive workshop featuring songs from around the world at 7:00 p.m. at the West Concord Union Church, 1317 Main St., Concord, MA, Tel: [978-369-6309](tel:978-369-6309). Advance registration requested, Suggested Donation \$10 per person at the door. For more details, see poster on Music bulletin board outside Room 208.

Sunday Worship, October 20th, 9:30 am - We welcome organist extraordinaire **Geoffrey Wieting** who will be substituting for Bernadette while she attends a continuing education retreat in western MA. Choir anthem for this Sunday will be the lovely Quaker hymn "How Can I Keep From Singing?"

Thursday, October 24th, 7:30 pm, Lexington High School auditorium. **Cellist Jueun Lee**, who played Bach and Rachmaninoff so marvelously for our Pentecost service in June, will play one movement of a concerto with the LHS Chamber Orchestra at their fall concert.

Friday, October 25th, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 62 Cedar Street, Dedham. **We Are One: Music and Mission for Children in South Africa.** This past summer, Music Director Bernadette Colley took part in discussions among some members of the MA Diocese interested in expanding the Jubilee's global mission to humanitarian efforts in South Africa, including Bishop Bud Cederholm, who had recently returned from there. Having had a personal interest in South African music for some time, Bernadette has volunteered to organize the music for the Diocesan launch event entitled "We Are One: Music and Mission for Children in South Africa" on Friday evening October. 25th at Church of the Good Shepherd in Dedham. Bernadette has arranged for one of three presentations by humanitarian organizations for that evening, Tremendous Hearts, of Arlington and Cape Town (www.tremendoushearts.org). The other two organizations presenting information will be the Masakhane Trust, and 1,000 Mugs. Music for the Oct. 25th evening will be largely participatory, and led by a high-school vocal group Boston City Singers, joined by local South African singers, and others. including Reverend Noble Scheepers, priest-in-charge at Good Shepherd, and from Cape Town himself. Redeemer parishoners will get a foretaste of some of the Oct. 25th program at its fall retreat...Stay tuned!!

Sunday Worship October 27th, 9:30 - Atrium Singers (Levels II & III) 2013-2014 launch their worship service presentations with Natalie Sleeth's "*Gaudeamus Hodie - O Be Joyful on the day!*". The children sounded great, even at their first rehearsal last week !! [Other fall singing dates are Nov. 24th and Dec. 22nd] Regular rehearsals take place as part of the children's Sunday school classes from 11:30-11:50 on Sunday mornings when Atrium is in session.

Ongoing and looking ahead

Welcome back to our **Adult choir!!** **Regular rehearsals are Wed. evenings 7:30-9:00, and Sunday mornings at 8:30.** New members interested in joining us may just show up.(...like maybe a few of you *men who sang so beautifully* on Father's Day???). Singers who can not make a weekly commitment are welcome to join us for high Feast Days (All Saints, Lessons & Carols, Christmas Eve, etc...), at any



Music News (cont'd)

time. Service repertoire includes standard classical works and spirituals and hymns from varied traditions.

Feast of All Saints on November 3rd. Guests **Soprano Lisa Correnti and, from LHS, All-state violinist Katie Chen** will join the choir in special Feast Day hymns, and selections from Gabriel Faure's *Requiem*.

Sunday December 8, at 4:00 Candlelight Lessons & Carols with String Quartet.

What is Your Vestry Working on?

The Vestry continues to devote some of its time and energy to the proposed renovation and renewal of our space. We met with members of the "Realizing Our Vision" team in further discussion of our vision for redevelopment of the Great Hall, the side entry space and bathrooms, and other possible wish-list items to be considered as a part of this project. We will be in ongoing dialogue with this team as they begin planning for the staging and funding of this exciting effort.

The Property Committee, under the able leadership of Lance Conrad, continues to oversee the maintenance and upkeep of our building and grounds. The oil-to-gas conversion is underway and we are hoping for a considerable savings in our energy usage and costs this year. Lexington Playcare has completed the changes to their space in the education wing to create more secure access to their facility and safeguard their children and staff. We are currently obtaining bids for repairing and better securing the playground outside entrance door. Plans for volunteer clean-up of our grounds and organization of the storage shed are underway.

In anticipation of the Rector's sabbatical next fall, we discussed plans for clergy coverage. Our Assistant Rector, Andrew Goldhor, will serve in a full-time capacity during the sabbatical. The Vestry agreed that an additional experienced clergy person would be helpful to assist Andrew. Kate will begin to contact some supply clergy that she feels would be appropriate to assist in a part-time capacity during the sabbatical. Funds to cover additional clergy expenses have been set aside in the sabbatical fund.

The Community Task Force team led by Nancy Grayson has been working on revising the Redeemer website to increase its flexibility and explore additional ways of communicating with parishioners. Peter Jacoby has graciously lent his professional expertise to advise the group on technical matters. The Redeemer Parish Photo Directory should be distributed soon to aid in communication among parish members. Thanks go to Ellen Cosgrove for all her hard work on organizing this effort.

The Vestry endorsed our Assistant Rector Andrew Goldhor for ordination to the ministry and signed the certificate of ordination. The ordination will take place on January 4, 2014, at the Cathedral and we hope that a large Redeemer contingent of supporters will be there. We also expressed best wishes to Andrew for his upcoming marriage on October 5, 2013 in Chicago.

Parishioners are welcome to attend Vestry meetings and encouraged to contact the wardens and vestry with interests and concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Etta King, Clerk



Redeeming Knitters

Attention Redeeming Knitters!

Mittens 101 begins October 3 with orientation at 7:30 pm in the Handley Library. Bring your regular knitting as well as any questions you may have about Mittens 101.



Class for Mittens 101 will be held October 10 at Knittin Kitten University, 93 Blanchard Road, Cambridge (Belmont line). For directions go to:

[https://maps.google.com/maps?](https://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s_d&hl=en&geocode=&daddr=93+Blanchard+Rd+Cambridge,+MA+02138+United+States)

[f=d&source=s_d&hl=en&geocode=&daddr=93+Blanchard+Rd+Cambridge,+MA+02138+United+States](https://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s_d&hl=en&geocode=&daddr=93+Blanchard+Rd+Cambridge,+MA+02138+United+States)

If you would like to car pool or have any questions, please call Susan Burkhardt at 781-899-8644 or Evelyn Hausslein, 781-861-0378.

Adult Christian Formation

Our Adult Christian Formation programs inform us about issues and concerns in our lives, our community and the world, AND help us consider how we respond to those issues and concerns as faith-filled Christians.

Adult Christian Formation meets Sundays from 10:50-11:50am, in the Great Hall. We invite ages 13-113 to join us. Bring your coffee and a friend!

- October 6: Creation Care Team: We will hear from the newly formed Redeemer Creation Care team about our role as stewards of God's creation.
- Oct. 13: NO ADULT FORUM (NO FORMATION CLASSES)
- Oct. 20: BPEACE: Julia MacMahon, the diocesan lead organizer of the anti-violence effort, will speak to us about issues of violence in our cities and towns.
- Oct. 27: Vestry Q & A

In the coming months Adult Formation will feature discussions about our relationships with money, our faith and one another. And Theologian in Residence Bill Fortier will facilitate conversations about Christology, culminating in an Advent series on "Folk Christologies".

If you have input about Adult Christian Formation topics or themes, please contact a member of the Committee (Ian Fox, Susan Burkhardt, Jed Geyerhahn, Bill Fortier).

Adult Christian Formation Contact Person: The Rev. Andrew Goldhor (Andrew@our-redeemer.net)



The New Testament: Cradle for the Trinity

Bill Fortier

Liberal Christians have been arguing -- for two centuries -- that the Trinity is nowhere to be found in the Christian Bible. It's true that the term Trinity is coined by Tertullian in the second century CE. Besides this though, the claim crumbles like a corn muffin. The New Testament is dotted with stories, statements and salutations that integrate three devotions to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

So let me give six examples: Let's look first (one) at the baptism of Jesus in the first three gospels: the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus, while the Father proclaims his sonship-in-love -- in audible words -- and directs the witnesses to listen to Jesus. (two) The risen Christ -- at the close of Matthew's story -- sends his emissaries out to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. (three) In John's tale, Jesus and the Father meld into each other, and into Jesus' followers too, who receive the Holy Spirit, the helper. These meditations -- from the mouth of Jesus himself -- are deeply personal, intimate. In fact, John is the most intimate and personal of the gospel writers: in no less than 61 passages, Jesus addresses and meets individuals, person-to-person, using the first person, second and third person, singular (I, you, the one who). The fourth gospel's devotional setup is (1) three-formed-devotion, (2) integration between the divine figures and the disciples, as well as (3) deeply personal. (four) Stephen sees God the Father, the enthroned Jesus while entranced by the Holy Spirit, while he's being killed (!): again (1) three-faceted-devotion, (2) communion among Stephen and the divine figures, and (3) profound intimacy. (five) Paul offers the famous salutation: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (six) Though the Holy Spirit is not explicitly named as the Holy Spirit in the transfiguration-on-the-mountain-stories, the transfiguration stories have a three-faceted-structure: (1) the 'cloud of presence', along with indescribable bright light, (2) Jesus radiated and in communion with the Jewish saints -- Moses and Elijah -- and (3) the voice of God the Father, (4) along with the disciples. Once again, we have deeply personal and personally touching revelation. With these six examples (there's more too) we can see the skeletal outlines -- in the New Testament -- for the Trinity.

The theology of the Trinity emerges from the devotional layout found in numerous biblical passages, as I just illustrated. Though not-fully-spelled-out and not-remotely-ironed-out within the New Testament, the doctrine of the Trinity is performed in the biblical raw materials. The later doctrine of the Trinity spells out the New Testament arrangement of devotions, offered towards the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I also think this gives us a clue how to keep and show our biblical and trinitarian faith.

We perform or demonstrate the trinitarian faith when we follow Jesus, in private devotion, in Jesus School and in service to those in need. We follow Jesus into the heart of the unimaginable, boundless love of the Father, swept up in the secret waves of the Holy Spirit. We do the Trinity, all the time peeps, while we learn from Jesus, our personal contact-point with the eternal persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.



Calendar

October	Date	Event Details
Tuesday	1	9:00am - EfM class 7:00pm - EfM class
Thursday	3	7:00pm - Redeemer Website meeting 7:30pm - Redeeming Knitters
Saturday	5	9:00am - Liturgy Team meeting
Sunday	6	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:50am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Creation Care Team</i> 12:00noon - Executive Committee meeting
Monday	7	5:30pm - Men's Group dinner meeting 7:30pm - Church Community meeting 7:30pm - Property Committee meeting
Tuesday	8	9:00am - EfM class 7:00pm - EfM class
Thursday	10	7:30pm - Creation Care Team meeting
Sunday	13	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II No Children, Youth or Adult Christian Formation
Monday	14	Office Closed in observance of Columbus Day
Tuesday	15	9:00am - EfM class 7:00pm - EfM class
Wednesday	16	7:30pm - Vestry meeting
Sunday	20	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:50am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Julia MacMahon from B-Peace</i>
Monday	21	7:30pm - Finance Committee meeting
Tuesday	22	9:00am - EfM class 7:00pm - EfM class
Thursday	24	4:00pm - Warden meeting
Friday	25	7:00pm - Music and Mission for children in South Africa, Church of the Good Shepherd, Dedham, MA.
Sunday	27	8:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:50am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Vestry Q&A</i> 12:00 noon - Worship Committee meeting
Monday	28	1:30pm - Cook for Bristol Lodge 7:30pm - Mission Committee meeting
Tuesday	29	9:00am - EfM class 7:00pm - EfM class

Please send all announcements by email to office@our-redeemer.net or for those without email, call or send to the church office, with "RF" clearly marked.

The **monthly deadline** for the November Redeeming Features submissions is October 15.